

HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY

Being a Brief Outline of the Principal Events of the County
From Its First Settlement.

Wasatch Wave 21 Dec 1906

Owing to the fact that very little has been published of the discovery and settlement of Wasatch County, it is somewhat difficult to write a history of this part of Utah.

There is so much to tell if one goes into detail, that it would be impossible for an article in the space which we are limited here, to record a titling of even the more important events of this valley, transpiring since its first settlement, the great difficulty being in the choice of events—what to tell, and what to leave untold.

Of course, as is always the case in writing a brief history, there will be many important events entirely left out and other events which seem of great importance to many, but lightly touched upon; and perhaps there may be some given here which may seem of less importance than others that are not mentioned. Still, our readers must remember that we are not pretending to tell it all in this article, for to do so would fill a large volume, and then leave much untold.

From the best information obtainable, we are lead to the conclusion that Wasatch County is the very first portion of the State of Utah ever visited by white men, unless it should be a small portion of the southeast corner of the state on the east side of the Colorado river.

While our forefathers were struggling for independence along the Atlantic coast, the Spaniards were busy exploring the interior of the country south and west of the rocky mountains. At that time this vast region, comprising Utah, Nevada, part of Idaho, Wyoming and Colorado was a wild and desolate country unexplored by white men and uninhabited, except by a few savage tribes of Indians which roamed from place to place living principally on roots and seeds. The country was claimed by Spain as a part of its possessions through the conquest of Mexico, by Hernando Cortez.

Numerous expeditions were sent out from Santa Fe from 1770 to 1780 to explore the northwest, but none of them, until the year 1776, seemed able to get beyond the Colorado river on account of the deep impassable canyon through which it flowed, all returning but little wiser than when they started.

The main object seemed to be to find a nearer and more practicable route to the Pacific coast, along which there were several Spanish settlements.

On the 2th of July, 1776, two Franciscan friars, Francisco Antanasio Domingues and Silvestre Velez de Escalante, in company with seven others, set out from Santa Fe for the purpose of discovering a direct route to Monterey, California. Their course, at first, was northwest, but soon they turned north into what is now the State of Colorado, doubtless to avoid the deep canyon of the Colorado which had been so many times reported impossible to cross. On the 28th of August, their course turned

any line between the Utes and Comanches. The place where they first came to Green river they named Santa Cruz. Here were six large black poplars on which they left an inscription. They followed down Green river in a southwesterly course for about ten leagues and from the top of a hill could see the junction of the White and Green rivers. They could also see a river flowing into Green river from the west which is undoubtedly the Uintah or Duchesne as is usually called. They crossed the river at this point and traveled up the stream flowing from the west for some distance and camped on the night of September 17th at a branch of the river which they called San Cosme (very probable the north branch, now known as the Uintah.)

From this point they traveled westward along the Duchesne and with no small difficulty, as the narrative states, crossed over the mountains. From the description given by these Spaniards, their route was very probably up the Duchesne, along the west fork, crossing the mountain at the head of Lake Canyon, passing through this valley and down the Provo river to Utah lake, which the natives called Timpanogas lake. The river down which they traveled after crossing the divide was also called the Timpanogas river by the natives.

These Spaniards were perhaps the first white men to ever set foot in this valley. They gave a very minute account of Utah lake and surrounding country as well as Great Salt lake and also a fair account of the Indian tribes inhabiting this region.

A half century later hunters and trappers stood on the shores of Both Utah lake and Salt lake and perhaps trapped beaver and mink along the banks of the Timpanogas in this valley. Trails were made through the valley, along which the Indians passed to and from the lower valleys and their mountain hunting grounds; but no settlement by white men was made here until the year 1859, when Mormon pioneers from the shores of the Timpanogas lake came here seeking homes for themselves and families.

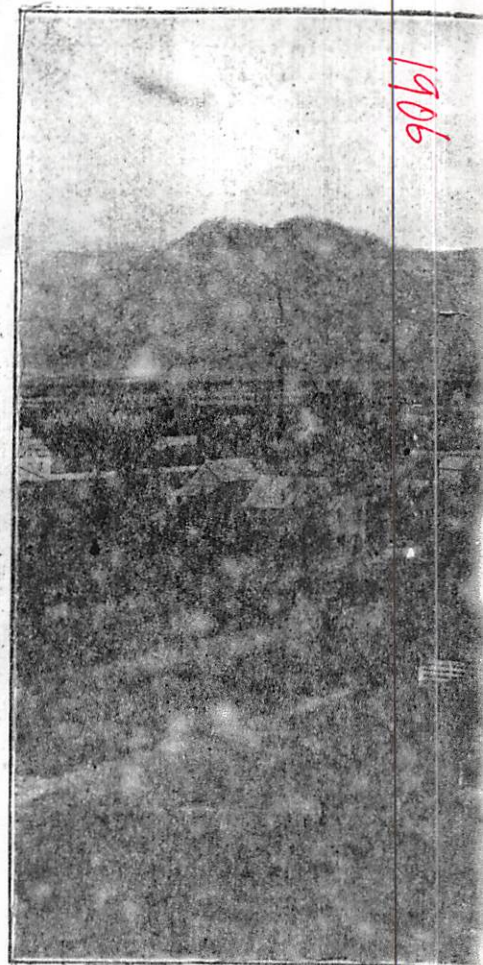
Provo City and Utah valley, was settled in 1849 or 1850. By the year 1857 the most desirable locations near the Utah lake had been taken up and people began to look for desirable locations elsewhere. Reports at different times had come from hunters, trappers, and others who had visited the vicinity, that there was a beautiful little valley about thirty miles up the Provo river and some of those who had been unable to secure desirable locations in Utah valley, began to think seriously of investigating these rumors with a view to making a new settlement.

One bright Sabbath morning in the summer of 1857, some parties who were working at a saw mill in Big Cottonwood canyon, concluded to make a trip over the mountain and look at this rumored paradise nestling in the tops of the Wasatch. They crossed the summit of the range and what they

through the canyon and built some ranches at the lower end of this valley and put up considerable hay with a view to keeping their stock through the winter. During the spring and summer, a number of other parties came into the valley, explored it, and concluded it was a good place to locate, in other words, they looked upon the beautiful handwork of nature "and saw that it was good."

In July of this year, a party of Provoites, with county surveyor J. C. Snow, came up and laid out about a section of ground north of the present site of Heber City, into twenty acre tracts, each man of the party selecting his twenty acre farm. They began at once considering the feasibility of building a road through Provo Canyon. The matter was laid before Brigham Young, the chief mover in nearly all the undertakings in the territory at that time, and his advice asked. He was told of the prospects awaiting the settlers in Provo valley, the hardships they would have to endure on account of the cold climate and high altitude, and, in short, as well as they were able, the advantages and disadvantages of a settlement here. President Young, with a view to settling up this valley and giving access to and from it and probably also with a view to

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Looking north

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Many were anxious to make further explorations and the next spring, Wm. Wall, George W. Bean, Aaron Daniels, and other stockmen of the lower valley drove a herd of stock

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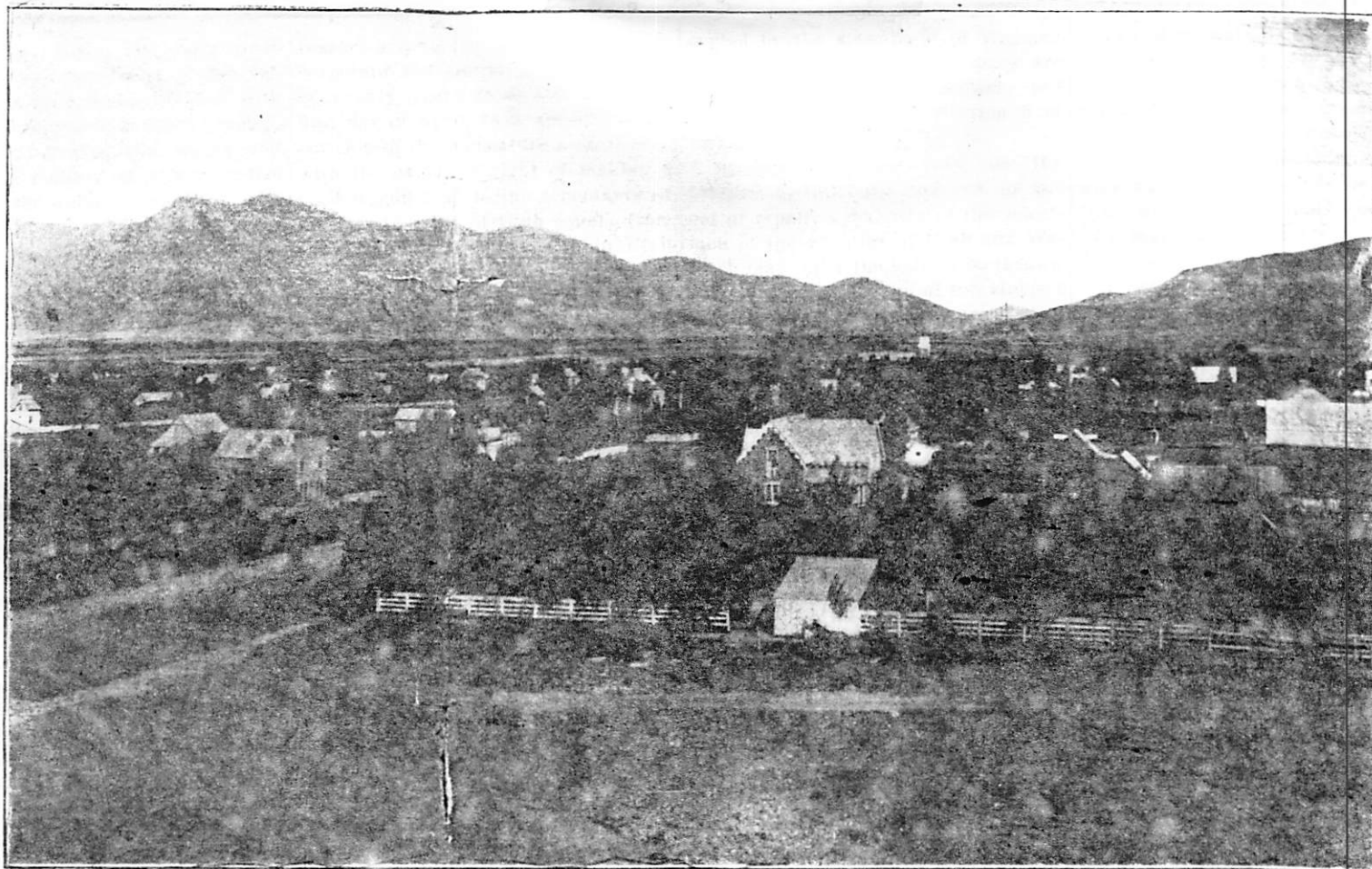
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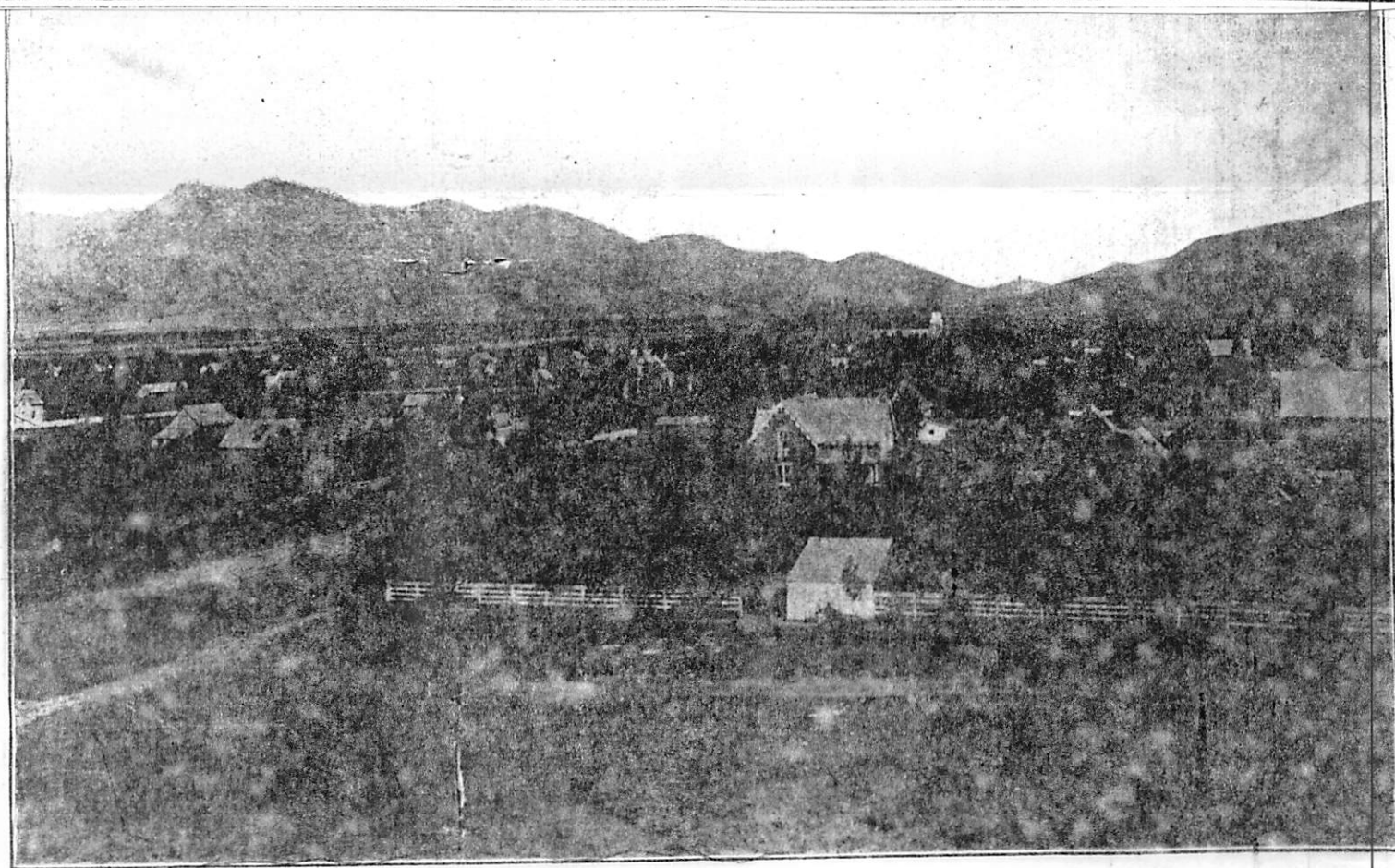
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of Wasatch County, and such other persons as may become stockholders in the corporation hereby incorporated, are made and constituted a body corporate as hereinafter specified, etc." This act is somewhat similar to the one of two years previous except in the wording of the object and aims of the company, which are set forth in Section 5 as follows:—"The said company shall have the right and privilege and the same is hereby granted to complete a substantial wagon road through Provo canyon commencing at

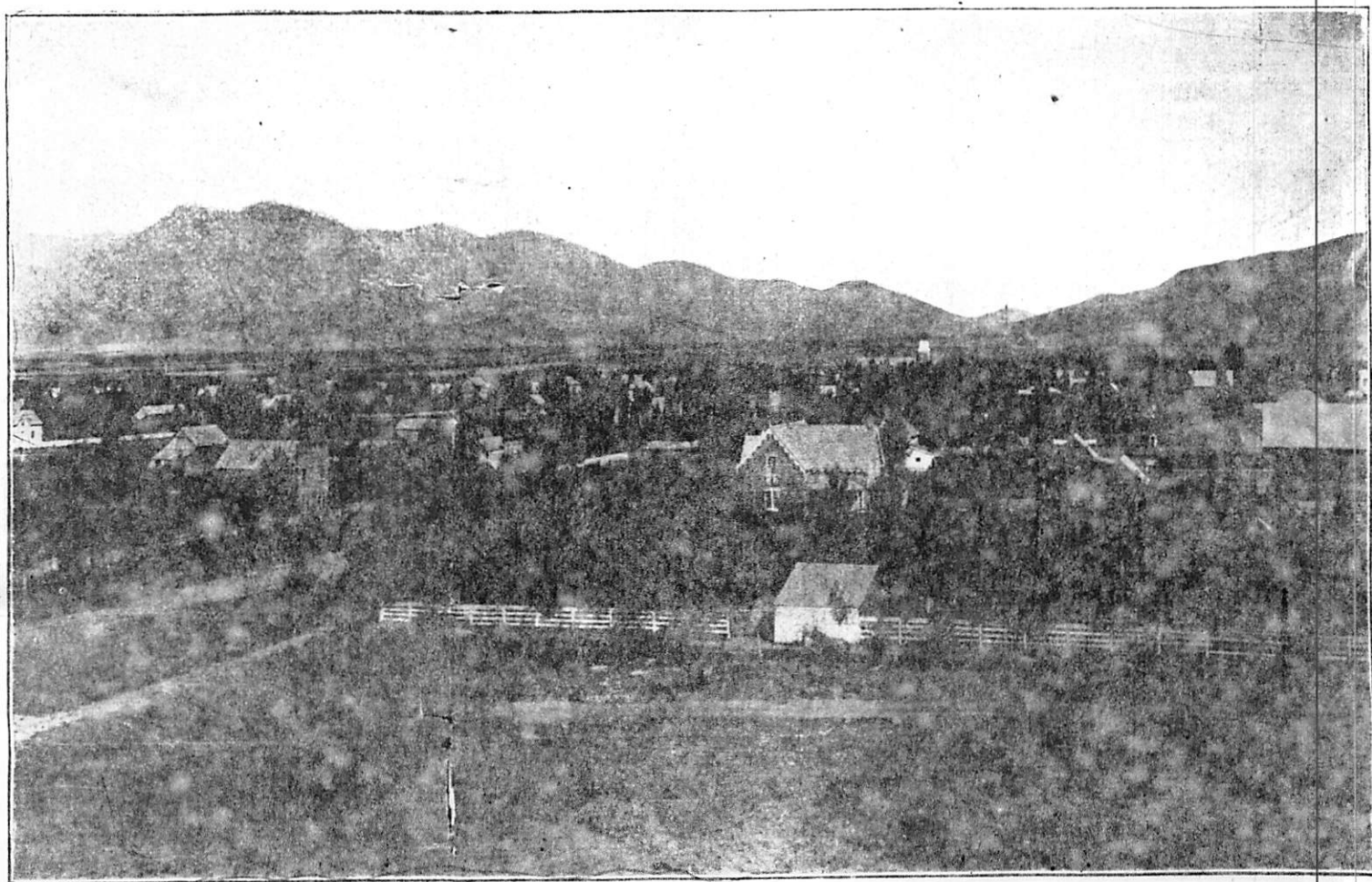
townsite, it was understood and agreed that a tract one mile square shall be reserved as a townsite where Heber City now stands. During the winter several ranches had been built the lower end of the valley, considerable hay put up and several hundred head of cattle were fed during the winter of 1858-9, by Wall, Meeks, Daniels, and others. John Crook in his journal, "April 30, 1859, we camped at a slide in Provo canyon that The next morning we pulled our things to pieces and carried them

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county to Kamas prairie, thence to continue north westerly on the mosts feasible route until it intercepts the main traveled road from the United States to Great Salt Lake City, near Blacks Fork in Green river county, Utah Territory, and keep the same in good repair with the privilege of taking toll thereon with such specific rates as shall be established by the aforesaid County Court." The act also provides for the usual powers of corporations to elect officers, make laws and regulations, etc., and for said company to give bonds to the people of the territory of Utah in the penal sum of \$5,000 condition for the faithful compliance with the conditions of the said charter and to secure all persons for any damage that may accrue from their neglect, which bonds shall be accepted by and filed with the probate judge of Utah County. This company seems to have mis-carried in some way or did not com-

satch may order the gate to be thrown open and the collection of toll stopped until the necessary repairs are made." The toll authorized is as follows: For every carriage or vehicle drawn by two animals, \$1.00; for every additional pair of animals, 50 cents; for each horse or mule led, rode, or packed, 50 cents; for sheep, goats, and hogs, each 5 cents; for every loose animal of the horse or cattle kind, 15 cents. The charter expires after the term of twenty years and the road shall then "become the property of the common wealth in good condition as shall be accepted by the selectmen of Utah and Wasatch Counties. Two years later, January 15th, 1867, this act was repealed and the charter annulled and a new act passed providing: "That Alexander F. McDonald, Warren N. Dusenberry, Shad-rach Holdaway, of Utah County, William M. Wall and Nymphus Murdock,

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of Wasatch County, and such other persons as may become stockholders in the corporation hereby incorporated, are made and constituted a body cor- porate as hereinafter specified, etc." This act is somewhat similar to the one of two years previous except in the wording of the object and aims of the company, which are set forth in Section 5 as follows:—"The said company shall have the right and priv- ilege and the same is hereby granted to complete a substantial wagon road through Provo canyon commencing at Provo City and extending through said canyon to Provo valley in Wasatch county; and when the aforesaid com- pany shall have completed said road to the acceptance of the territorial Road Commissioner, a toll gate may be established thereon and toll collect- ed at the following rates: For each vehicle drawn by two animals, \$1.50; for each vehicle drawn by four ani- mals, \$2.00; for each vehicle drawn by six animals, \$2.50; each addition-

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cepted by the selectment of Wasatch and Utah counties, said company are hereby authorized to collect toll thereon as provided in Section 5 of this act.

"In case the said road or the bridges thereon are suffered to get out of repair, a majority of the selectmen of the counties of Utah and Wasatch may order the gate to be thrown open and the collection of toll stopped until the necessary repairs are made."

The toll authorized is as follows: For every carriage or vehicle drawn by two animals, \$1.00; for every additional pair of animals, 50 cents; for each horse or mule led, rode, or packed, 50 cents; for sheep, goats, and hogs, each 5 cents; for every loose animal of the horse or cattle kind, 15 cents.

The charter expires after the term of twenty years and the road shall then "become the property of the common wealth in good condition as shall be accepted by the selectmen of Utah and Wasatch Counties.

Two years later, January 15th, 1867, this act was repealed and the charter annulled and a new act passed providing: "That Alexander F. McDonald, Warren N. Dusenberry, Shadrach Holdaway, of Utah County, William M. Wall and Nymphus Murdock,

al pair of animals, \$1.00; each vehicle drawn by one animal, \$75; each packed mule, 15 cents; each horseman 15 cents; for loose horses, mules, or cattle, each 10 cents; for sheep, goats, or swine, 5 cents; provided that persons hauling timber, fuel, or produce from within thirty miles of Provo City shall pay but one way being entitled to a return ticket free."

Notwithstanding the predictions of many "wiseacres" that the attitude was too cold for agricultural crops to mature, quite a heavy exodus occurred from the lower valley to this garden spot among the hills of the Wasatch in the spring of 1859.

Among the first who came about the first of May, were Robert Broadhead, James Davis, William Davidson, Charles N. Carroll, Thomas Rasband, John Jordan, John Crook, John Carlile, James Carlile, Jessie Bord, Henry Chatwin, William Giles, Wm. Carpenter, and others whose names we have been unable to obtain.

During the fall of 1858, while the Provo canyon road was being constructed, another plat of ground, west of the present site of Heber City, was surveyed off into twenty acre farms and some surveying done on the west side of the river.

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reached the present site of Heber City, we say two teams plowing north of us which proved to be Wm. Davidson plowing with two yoke of oxen and Robert Broadhead and James Davis with a similar outfit between them. We found that W. Davidson had his family here, which I believe, was the first family in the valley. There were about 1,000 bushels of grain raised in the valley during the season of 1859, at Heber, Midway and Center."

A daughter was born to Mrs. Ellen Davidson, wife of Wm. Davidson, early in November of this year. This was the first white child born in Wasatch county. She was named Timpanogas, the Indian name for Provo river and valley.

One company who came built a large wickiup of poles, covering it with willows, long wheat grass, and dirt near a large spring about two miles north of Heber City townsite. As this party were mostly immigrants from England they named their primitive dwelling the "London Wickiup." The spring was called "London Spring" and it is so called today.

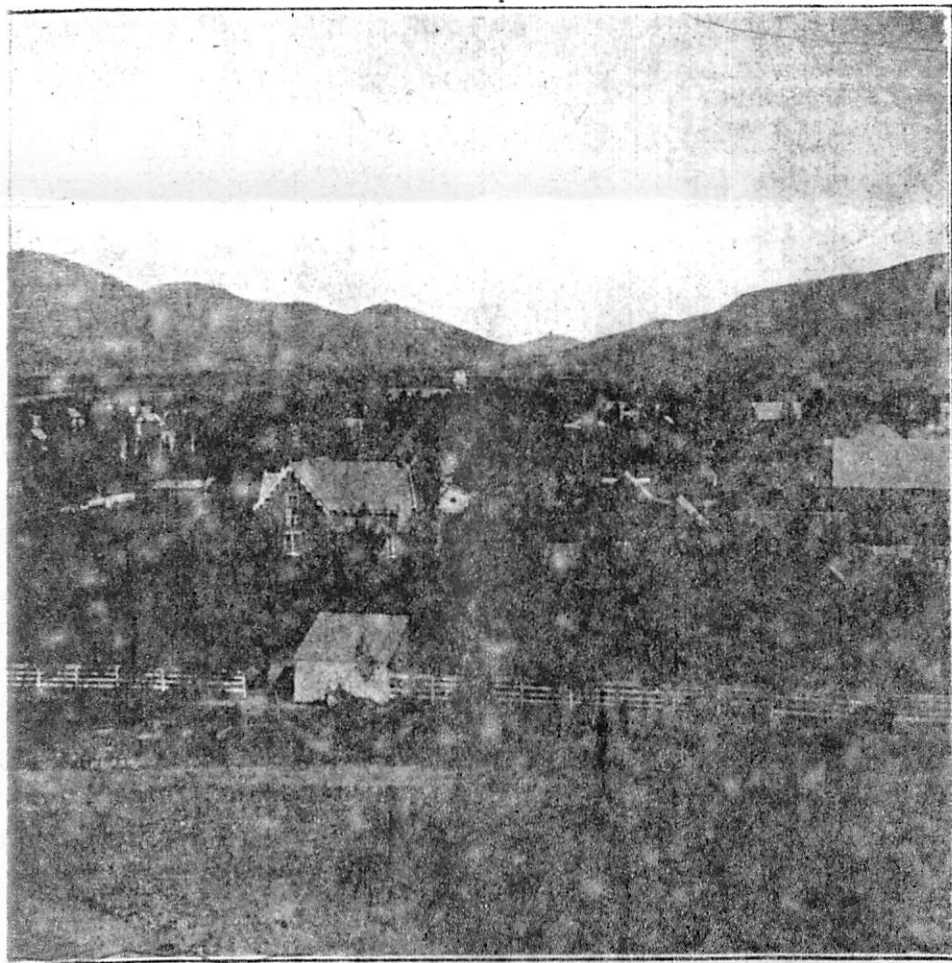
A few weeks later another company came, among whom were Thomas H. Giles, John Giles, Hiram Oaks, Geo. Carlile and Sidney Epperson.

About the middle of June Jesse Fuller, deputy county surveyor of Utah county, commenced a survey of Heber City. The initial point was established at the north end of Main street on the west side (long known as George W. Clyde's corner). The first line was run along the west side of Main street, the blocks being made 24 rods square and the streets 5 rods wide, each block being divided into four lots 12 rods square. A tract of eight blocks south and 5½ blocks west of the initial point were laid off into blocks and lots forming a rectangle practically three-fourths of a mile long and one-half of a mile wide. This formed the west half of the townsite which was afterwards, in 1870, entered as such by the probate judge of this county.

The east half was similarly laid off some months later leaving Main street seven rods wide. The south part of Heber City, a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide, was entered as a homestead by Jonathan Clegg and after getting patent in 1875, the three east 40's of his homestead were conveyed to the probate judge of Wasatch county to be laid off into city lots and sold, the proceeds to go to the benefit of the common schools of Heber City. This was surveyed by M. J. Shelton into blocks and lots, the blocks being laid off twenty-four rods east and west and twenty rods north and south with streets five rods wide, except Main street, which was seven rods.

Prior to this a fort had been laid out 80 rods square, lying between what are now First West and Fourth West streets, and Second North and Fifth North streets.

There were twenty families in Heber during the winter of 1859-60, all having houses built on the fort line except three. William Davidson, who built on the lot now occupied by the Tithing office, one block east and one block south of the fort, and John Lee, who built one block south and half a block west of the fort, and James Laird, who had built just west of the fort line about midway be-



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Notwithstanding the predictions of many "wiseacres" that the attitude was too cold for agricultural crops to mature, quite a heavy exodus occurred from the lower valley to this garden spot among the hills of the Wasatch in the spring of 1859.

Among the first who came about the first of May, were Robert Broadhead, James Davis, William Davidson, Charles N. Carroll, Thomas Rasband, John Jordan, John Crook, John Carlile, James Carlile, Jessie Boyd, Henry Chatwin, William Giles, Wm. Carpenter, and others whose names we have been unable to obtain.

During the fall of 1858, while the Provo canyon road was being constructed, another plat of ground, west of the present site of Heber City, was surveyed off into twenty acre farms and some surveying done on the west side of the river.

While no survey was made of a

raised in the valley during the season of 1859, at Heber, Midway and Cer...

A daughter was born to Mrs. Davidson, wife of Wm. Dav. early in November of this year. This was the first white child born in Wasatch county. She was named Timpanogas, the Indian name for Provo river and valley.

One company who came built a large wickiup of poles, covering it with willows, long wheat grass, and dirt near a large spring about two miles north of Heber City towsite. As this party were mostly immigrants from England they named their primitive dwelling the "London Wickiup." The spring was called "London Spring" and it is so called today.

A few weeks later another company came, among whom were Thomas H. Giles, John Giles, Hiram Oaks, Geo. Carlile and Sidney Epperson.

About the middle of June Jesse Fuller, deputy county surveyor of Utah county, commenced a survey of Heber City. The initial point was established at the north end of Main street on the west side (long known as George W. Clyde's corner). The first line was run along the west side of Main street, the blocks being made 24 rods square and the streets 5 rods wide, each block being divided into four lots 12 rods square. A tract of eight blocks south and 5½ blocks west of the initial point were laid off into blocks and lots forming a rectangle practically three-fourths of a mile long and one-half of a mile wide. This formed the west half of the townsite which was afterwards, in 1870, entered as such by the probate judge of this county.

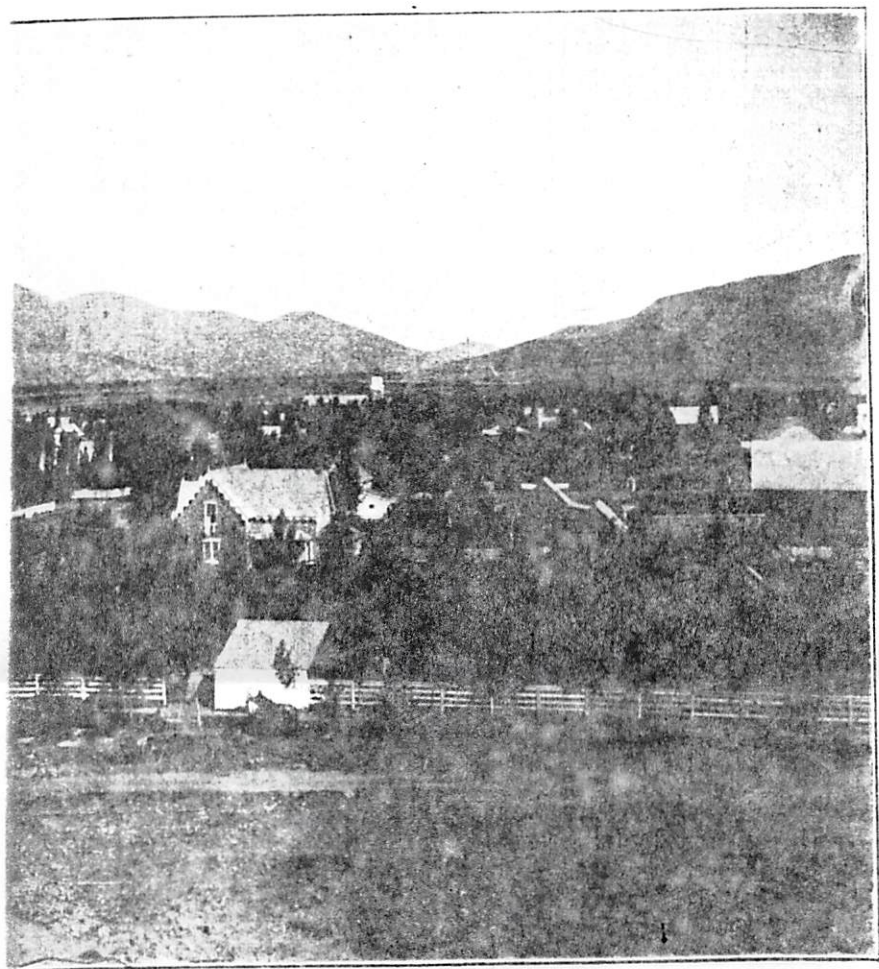
The east half was similarly laid off some months later leaving Main street seven rods wide. The south part of Heber City, a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide, was entered as a homestead by Jonathan Clegg and after getting patent in 1875, the three east 10's of his homestead were conveyed to the probate judge of Wasatch county to be laid off into city lots and sold, the proceeds to go to the benefit of the common schools of Heber City. This was surveyed by M. J. Shelton into blocks and lots, the blocks being laid off twenty-four rods east and west and twenty rods north and south with streets five rods wide, except Main street, which was seven rods.

Prior to this a fort had been laid out 80 rods square, lying between what are now First West and Fourth West streets, and Second North and Fifth North streets.

There were twenty families in Heber during the winter of 1859-60, all having houses built on the fort line except three. William Davidson, who built on the lot now occupied by the Tithing office, one block east and one block south of the fort, and John Lee, who built one block south and half a block west of the fort, and James Laird, who had built just west of the fort line about midway between the northwest and southwest corners.

As near as we are able to learn the houses built on the fort lines were as follows:

On the north line, John Crook, Thomas Rasband, James Carlile, Hiram Oaks, Brad Sessions, Robert Broadhead, James Davis, D. A. Sessions; on the east line, Richard Jones and Elisha Thomas; on the west by J. W. Witt, C. N. Carroll, Elias Cox, John Jordan, E. T. Carlile, Ze-



School House, showing upper part of Provo Valley.

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of Wasatch County, and such other persons as may become stockholders in the corporation hereby incorporated, are made and constituted a body corporate as hereinafter specified, etc."

This act is somewhat similar to the one of two years previous except in the wording of the object and aims of the company, which are set forth in Section 5 as follows:—"The said company shall have the right and privilege and the same is hereby granted to complete a substantial wagon road through Provo canyon commencing at Provo City and extending through said canyon to Provo valley in Wasatch county, and when the aforesaid company shall have completed said road to the acceptance of the territorial Road Commissioner, a toll gate may be established thereon and toll collected at the following rates: For each vehicle drawn by two animals, \$1.50; for each vehicle drawn by four animals, \$2.00; for each vehicle drawn by six animals, \$2.50; each addition-

townsite, it was understood and agreed that a tract one mile square should be reserved as a townsite where Heber City now stands. During the summer several ranches had been built in the lower end of the valley, considerable hay put up and several hundred head of cattle were fed here during the winter of 1858-9, by Bean, Wall, Meeks, Daniels, and others.

John Crook in his journal, says: "April 30, 1859, we camped at a snow slide in Provo canyon that night. The next morning we pulled our wagons to pieces and carried them to the top of the snow slide which was about quarter of a mile wide. Our May Day excursion consisted of traveling up the canyon from the snow slide to Wm. Wall's ranch where we camped. The next day we crossed Daniels' creek on the ice. There were heavy drifts of snow behind the willow bunches. We thought we were the first settlers to arrive in the valley that spring, but when we

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Court adjourned until the 1st Monday in March next.

Judges fees \$ 3.00

Select men 4.50

Clerks 2.00

..... 9.50

J. W. WITT, Judge.

THOMAS TODD, Select Men.

CHAS. SHELTON, Clerk.

We are informed by John Hamilton that when the names of the county officers were submitted to the then acting Governor, Brigham Young, the name of John Hamilton was substituted for that of Snelling M. Johnson, so that instead of Johnson, Hamilton was really the first sheriff of the county.

We have been unable to find any published act organizing and defining the boundaries of Wasatch County in 1862; but on January 10, 1866, an act was passed defining the boundaries of counties and locating County Seats in which the boundaries of Wasatch County are described as follows:

millage was in its infancy and it was not always that they could get wheat made into flour. But to counteract this to some extent, game was plentiful in the valley and fish abundant in the Provo river.

Just what was the population at this time we can find no statistics, but on the seventh day of December, 1862, Henry McMillin, County Supervisor of roads, presented a statement to the county court in which he gives the total amount of road tax for the year as \$300, which would indicate that there were 102 able bodied male inhabitants in the county over sixteen and under fifty years of age.

In 1862, according to John Crook's journal, the population of the valley town at Heber, two small settlements at Midway, a number of families at Center Creek, same at Charleston, some in Round valley, and a small cluster of houses at the Sessions spring and a few at the sheep ranch of Melvin Ross, afterwards known as Halstone's ranch, about eight miles north of Heber.

On the 3rd of March of this year the first county road was established commencing at the Provo river below Manning's (southwest of the town of Charleston) and running in a northerly direction following the old immigrant trail through the valley passing by Melvin Ross' ranch and terminating at the northern boundary of the county (known as the Ross summit).

At a special term April 26, 1862, a county road was established between Heber City and Centerville, and hence to the saw mill in Center Creek canyon.

At this session, the county was divided into four school districts. District No. 1 to include Heber City; No. 2 at Centerville settlement; No. 3 the lower settlement on Snake creek, and No. 4 the Upper Snake Creek settlement.

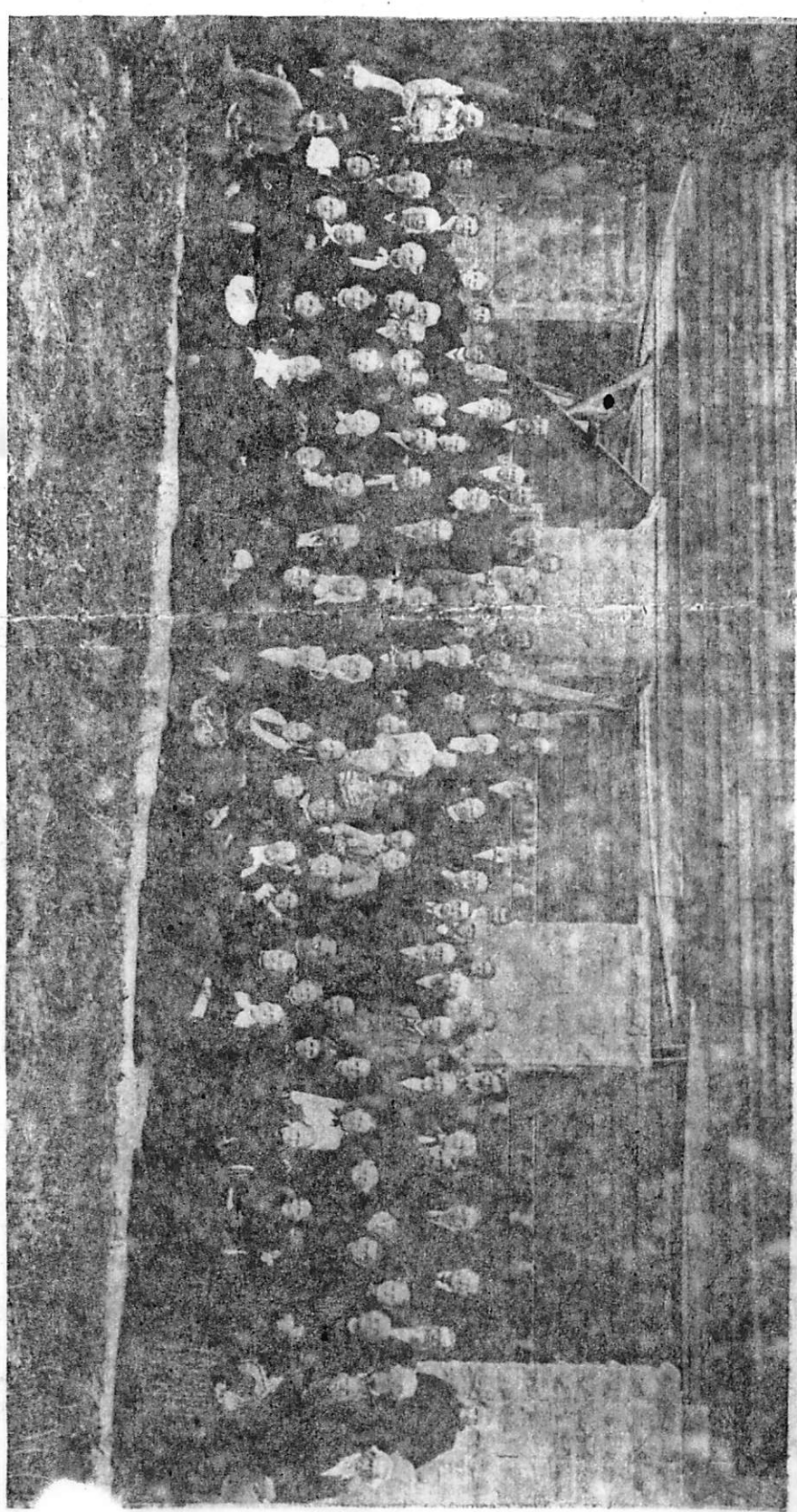
Wm. P. Reynolds was given the privilege of turning Lake Creek into

or looking after their flocks, the school teacher. We do not say this that might be taken as a reflection on men attending to their household duties. From Monday till Saturday each brought his labor, each night its refreshing slumber. Sunday were zealously observed in devotional exercises in private homes at first, and later in the school houses.

each condign prevailed, more or less, throughout all the western states, at that period and we fear that in some parts of the United States this idea has not been fully eradicated from the

Yet, we find the county court still clinging to Wm. Well, the exclusive right to herd cattle and horses in Round valley, but excluding sheep; and to Ephraim Hanks the exclusive right to

the room for censure. Few men under existing conditions could have done better. Very little money was in circulation. The collector was obliged to receive wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and other produce for taxes or not collect them. The county court was under the necessity of making these commodities legal tender for payment



Old Folks of Heber at their reunion June 14, 1901.

They were as happy as a people could be; happy because they were industrious, industrious because they were happy. In 1860, a log meeting house was built in which church meetings and school was held.

In the autumn when their crops were gathered, the winter's fuel hauled from the canyons, and their threshing done, which in some cases did not take place until Christmas, as thresh-

herd sheep in another portion of the county, and excluding horses and cattle; provided they give a bond with the old "destrict school" of a half century ago, and in no part of the world, perhaps, more so than in Utah.

The founders of this state, among whom were many of the best citizens of this country, coming here after being driven from their homes in the east, and being augmented by converts of the

mirra Palmer, and Mrs. Clotworthy. (This information is kindly furnished by John Crook from his diary.)

At this time Provo valley was partly in Utah county and partly in Salt Lake County, the dividing line between the counties running through the valley, about one mile south of Heber, the southern part of this valley, belonging to Utah County, while all the northern part of the county, including Heber City and the present site of Midway, was in Salt Lake County.

In 1862, by act of the legislative assembly of the territory of Utah, Wasatch County was created, bounded on the west by the summit of the Wasatch range, on the north by Summit county as now organized, on the east by the territorial line, and on the south by Sanpete County. John W. Witt was elected probate judge by the legislative assembly and on the 22nd day of February, 1862, the first session of the County Court was held. The minutes of their first meeting are hereby given in full:

RECORD OF THE COUNTY COURT OF WASATCH COUNTY, IN THE TERRITORY OF UTAH.

Special Term.

Feb. 22nd, 1862.

John W. Witt, Presiding.

The Judge organized the County Court by appointing the following officers: Thos. Todd, James Duke, and John H. VanWagoner, Select men.

The court then proceeded to appoint John Harvey Assessor and Collector, Snelling M. Johnson, Sheriff, John M. Murdock, Treasurer, John Sessions Surveyor, Thos. H. Giles, Superintendent of Common Schools.

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Judges fees	\$ 3.00
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"All that portion of the territory bounded on the south by Utah and

has been a matter of dispute among the residents of this and Summit counties, but from the best information we can obtain, it is the ranch now owned by John O'Driscoll, situated on the north side of Provo river at the lower end of the Kamas valley. If this be true, which we believe there is no doubt, the clause reading "thence south to Provo river" should read "thence southeasterly to Provo river" to definitely describe the boundary line.

John W. Witt served as Probate Judge of this county from this date until the first day of June, 1888, when he was succeeded by Abram Hatch. During Judge Witt's administration of public affairs, occurred the most trying and perhaps the most important events in the history of this county. It was during this time that the Black Hawk war occurred which many of the inhabitants of this county remember to this day, with a thrill of excitement. It was also during this period that the inhabitants of this county endured hardships and privations only known or realized by pioneer settlers of a new country, many of them living in dug-outs and dirt roof houses and eating bread when they could get it, and going without when they could not, and trying to look pleasant, which was a considerable portion of the time. Wheat was raised here, to be sure, but flour milling was in its infancy and it was not always that they could get wheat made into flour. But to counteract this to some extent, game was plentiful in the valley and fish abundant in the Provo river.

Just what was the population at this time we can find no statistics, but on the seventh day of December, 1863, Henry McMullin, County Supervisor of roads, presented a statement to the county court in which he gives the total amount of road tax for the year as \$306, which would indicate that there were 102 able bodied male inhabitants in the county over sixteen and under fifty years of age.

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While the daily lives of the people were anything but luxurious during these primitive times, they had their pleasant side. The houses were mostly built of logs with dirt roof, the floor of solid earth, and doors and windows were luxuries not enjoyed by all the inhabitants by a long way. Chimneys were built principally of sand rock with wide open fireplaces, where, on the cold winter evenings the fire crackled and sparkled, lighting up with a ruddy glow the rudely furnished interior. This in many instances being the only light available. Stoves were articles of furniture scarcely heard of in those days. Many were unable to afford the luxury of a log house and lived in dugouts. Still they were jovial and happy, taking, perhaps, more genuine pleasure in their manner of living than many who dwell in gilded palaces today. Farming and stock raising was the principal industries; in fact, about the only industries, and in summer all were busily at work, the men in the fields or looking after their flocks, the women attending to their household duties. From Monday till Saturday each day brought its labor, each night its refreshing slumber. Sundays were zealously observed in devotional exercises in private homes at first, and later in the school houses.



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"All that portion of the territory bounded on the south by Utah and Sanpete Counties, west by Utah and Great Salt Lake Counties, north by the summit of the range of mountains south of the head waters of the East canyon and Silver creeks, following said summit to the point where the road leading to Great Salt Lake City and Rhode's valley crosses, thence south to Provo river at the high bluff below Goddard's ranch, thence along the channel of said river to its head waters, thence easterly to the summit of the range of mountains north of Uinta valley, thence along the last named summit and south of Brown's hole to the 32nd meridian west from Washington City and east by said meridian, is hereby made and named Wasatch County with County seat at Heber City."

Where Goddard's ranch wa

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The assessed value of property in the county, according to the report of John Harvey, assessor and collector for the year 1862, amounted to \$48,350. The assessed value for 1863 was \$53,572. Prior to 1862, assessments were made by Utah county officials.

On the first Monday of August, 1863, an election was held at which Sidney H. Epperson, Henry McMullin, and D. A. Cessions were elected selectmen, and John Hamilton, sheriff. Who were elected treasurer and recorder does not appear. The county clerk, assessor and collector, and other county officers were appointive by the probate judge.

The first bridge constructed over Provo river in this county, was built

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In the autumn when their crops were gathered, the winter's fuel hauled from the canyons, and their threshing done, which in some cases did not take place until Christmas, as threshing machines were not as plentiful then as now, they were prepared for the long period of rest from then until the next April.

During the long winter evenings, the social side of life in this valley was at its best. Scarcely a night passed but witnessed a social gathering of some kind, where fun and frolic reigned supreme.

Dancing was the favorite pastime and in this all took part, old and young alike. All met upon a common plain. There were no conventionalities, no castes, cliques or clans, no select society. They enjoyed themselves as one large family, all fathers, brothers, mothers, sisters, enjoying themselves as few living in the larger cities either know or realize, nor could they do so had they the will. Schools were early established, and in winter were well attended. That

minds of the science of so wonderful pr the old "dec century ago world, perhaps The founders were many o county, comi en from the being augme poorer classe world, have tion and edu phenomenal, the history o cultural distr globe, and W pace with he respect. In tion, we belie the best schoo apparatus, an county in the In the early of the valley, citizens was best, nor mod most approved the best that Wasatch coun this, the sam all over the s shoes and son

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they were of the very best we can hardly lay claim, but they were the best the people and the conditions of the country could afford. Our teachers were the best that could be procured. We are willing to admit that they were usually non-graduates, and as a rule, were not well up in scientific, psychological, pedagogy, as the term is understood today. The three R's was the principal curriculum of daily study, and was often carried to a high degree of imperfection. But we must remember that good schools were the rare exception from one end of the territory to the other.

This condition existed, not so much from a lack of interest or want of desire for education, but more from a lack of opportunity and a realization of its importance and the fact that few communities were sufficiently large to support first class schools. Another thing that retarded the advent of good schools was the fact that the profession of school teaching belonged, not to the able-bodied, strong-minded student, but to him who was unfit for any other calling. If a man were physically incapacitated to perform manual labor, or mentally incapacitated to perform real intellectual labor, he might become an ideal school teacher. We do not say this through any disparagement to the people of this county or this state, but this condition prevailed, more or less, throughout all the western states at that period and we fear that in some parts of the United States this idea has not been fully eradicated from the

cept such as nature provided. To relieve the situation in this respect a tannery was started here at an early date with John Muir as manager. This institution did a good business here and provided footwear for the settlers until such time as this necessary article could be supplied from other sources. The old tannery building is still standing, but has been out of commission for the past thirty or forty years.

It is said that "man is a bundle of habits." This is no doubt true and a community is a bundle of customs. Customs are formed from the laws of a country and the lives and environment of its people. The customs of a people change as their laws change, as their daily lives change, as their surroundings change. This has been the history of the human family from its earliest inception.

Since the early settlement of Provo valley, our customs, our habits, our daily lives, have changed, but only as our laws, our associations, our environments have changed.

For example, who would today think of asking the county court to grant him the exclusive right to herd cattle, or sheep, or horses, in the county? Who, today, would think of asking that august body for the sole and exclusive right to the use of all the timber in a certain canyon?

Yet, we find the county court granting to Wm. Wall the exclusive right to herd cattle and horses in Round Bay, but excluding sheep; and to Ephraim Hanks the exclusive right to

The laws of our were quite different to what they are to courts, consisting of judge and three selected by the legislature, the most unlimited power counties and the people them as the source head of everything of not directly under the pervision of the ecclesiastical.

Probate courts had jurisdiction in both civil cases. They were known by the technicalities of procedure or the arguments, as those necessary some undesirable created attorneys at law, were known in the territory. the office of county prosecutor was unknown in Utah legislature assumed to obtain special privileges, franchises, and the power certain others was delegated by the county court. Some have been inclined to the action of the probate courts during the first of the organization of this when the crude condition of the crude laws, and the municipal and judicial condition country is considered, there



Old Folks of Heber at their reunion June 14, 1901.

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herd sheep in another portion of the county, and excluding horses and cattle; provided they give a bond with security and take and subscribe to an oath conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties, and for the indemnifying for all losses of time or animals through their neglect. They

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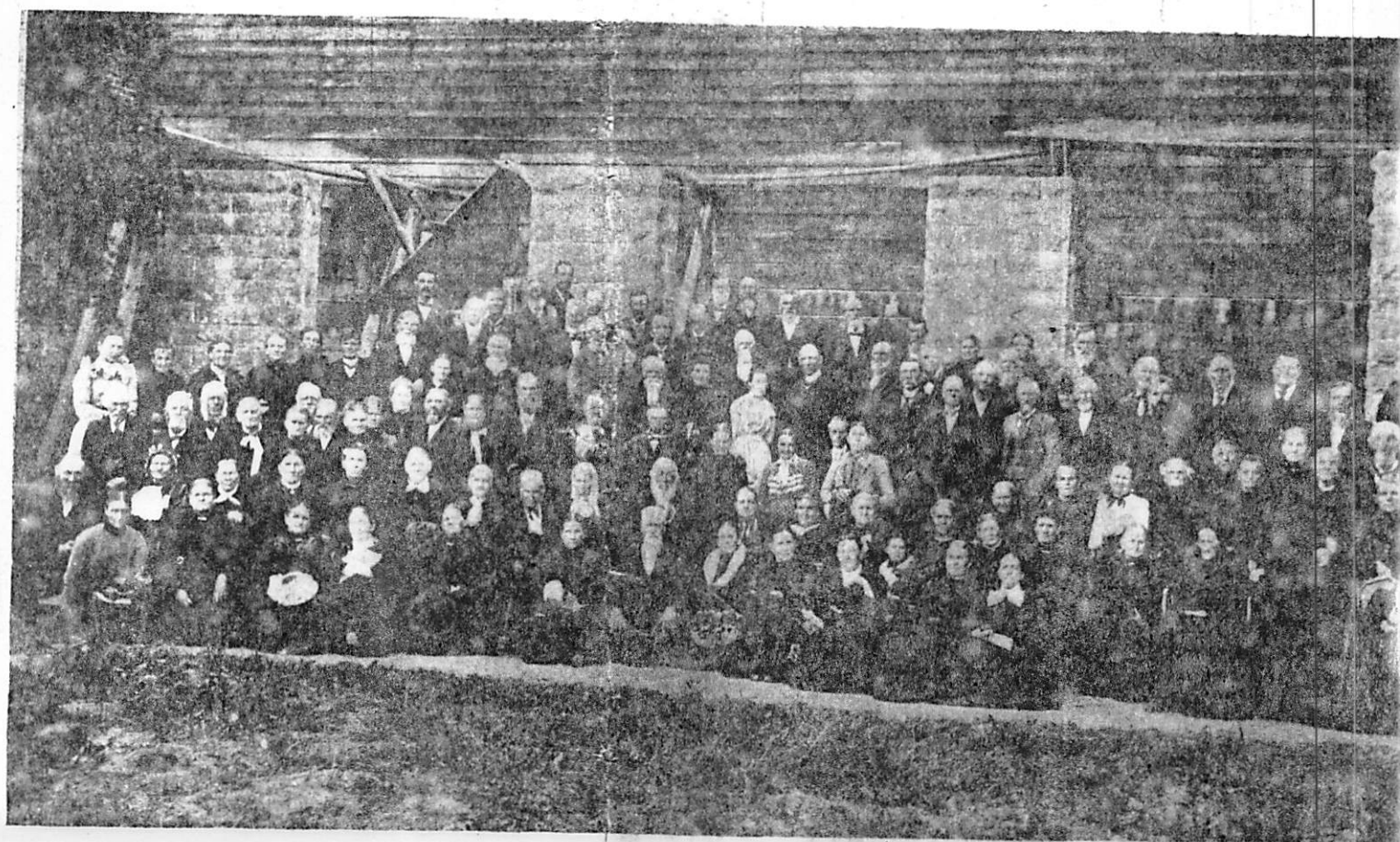
Very little money was in circulation. People could not get money to pay taxes. The collector was obliged to receive wheat, oats, barley, potatoes

they were jovial and happy, taking, perhaps, more genuine pleasure in their way of living than many who dwell in the palaces today. Farming and stock raising was the principal industries; in fact, about the only industries, and in summer all were busily at work, the men in the fields or looking after their flocks, the women attending to their household duties. From Monday till Saturday each day brought its labor, each night its refreshing slumber. Sundays were zealously observed in devotional exercises in private homes at first, and later in the school houses.

the profession of school teaching being long not to the able-bodied, strong-minded student, but to him who was unfit for any other calling. If a man were physically incapacitated to perform manual labor, or mentally incapacitated to perform real intellectual labor, he might become an ideal school teacher. We do not say this through any desire to glorify the people of this county or this state, but this condition prevailed, more or less, throughout all the western states at that period and we fear that in some parts of the United States this idea has not been fully eradicated from the

valley, our customs, our habits, our daily lives, have changed, but only as our laws, our associations, our environments have changed. For example, who would today think of asking the county court to grant him the exclusive right to herd cattle, or sheep, or horses, in the county? Who, today, would think of asking that august body for the sole and exclusive right to the use of all the timber in a certain canyon? Yet, we find the county court granting to Wm. Wall the exclusive right to herd cattle and horses in Round Bay, but excluding sheep; and to Ephraim Hanks the exclusive right to

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Old Folks of Heber at their reunion June 14, 1901.

They were as happy as a people could be; happy because they were industrious, industrious because they were happy. In 1860, a log meeting house was built in which church meetings and school was held. In the autumn when their crops were gathered, the winter's fuel hauled from the canyons, and their threshing done, which in some cases did not take place until Christmas, as threshing machines were not as plentiful then as now, they were prepared for the long period of rest from then until the next April. During the long winter evenings, the social side of life in this valley was at its best. Scarcely a night passed but witnessed a social gathering of some kind, where fun and frolic reigned supreme. Dancing was the favorite pastime and in this all took part, old and young alike. All met upon a common plain. There were no conventionalities, no castes, cliques or clans, no select society. They enjoyed themselves as one large family, all fathers, brothers, mothers, sisters, enjoying themselves as few living in the larger cities either know or realize, nor could they do so had they the will. Schools were early established, and in winter were well attended. That

minds of the people to this day. The science of school teaching has made wonderful progress since the days of the old "deestrick school" of a half century ago, and in no part of the world, perhaps, more so than in Utah. The founders of this state, among whom were many of the best citizens of this county, coming here after being driven from their homes in the east, and being augmented by converts of the poorer classes from all parts of the world, have made progress in education and educational facilities, almost phenomenal, scarcely paralleled in the history of any newly settled agricultural district on the face of the globe, and Wasatch county has kept pace with her sister counties in this respect. In proportion to its population, we believe Wasatch county has the best school houses, the best school apparatus, and the best schools of any county in the state. In the early days of the settlement of the valley, the dress of the average citizens was not always of the very best, nor modeled after the latest and most approved fashion, but they were the best that could be obtained, and Wasatch county was not alone in this, the same conditions prevailing all over the state. Sometimes we had shoes and sometimes we had none, ex-

herd sheep in another portion of the county, and excluding horses and cattle; provided they give a bond with security and take and subscribe to an oath conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties, and for the indemnifying for all losses of time or animals through their neglect. They were also restricted to herding stock belonging only to residents of Wasatch county. We find the court granting to Wm. Howard "full control of the waters of Snake Creek, when not needed for irrigation," and the exclusive right to the use of all the timber over ten inches in diameter in Snake Creek and Maple canyons and the canyon lying between. We find it granting to John W. Witt and Peter Clark the "exclusive right to establish a meat market and to butcher and sell meat in Wasatch county," and to many others the exclusive right to do certain other things in the county. These were not licenses as the term is understood today, obtainable by anyone who could qualify and pay the fee, but special, exclusive grants with no license fee attached. But these were customs and assumed powers brought about and authorized by the statute laws of the

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cept such as nature provided. To re- lieve the situation in this respect a tannery was started here at an early date with John Muir as manager. This institution did a good business here and provided footwear for the settlers until such time as this necessary article could be supplied from other sources. The old tannery building is still standing, but has been out of commission for the past thirty or forty years.

It is said that "man is a bundle of habits." This is no doubt true and a community is a bundle of customs. Customs are formed from the laws of a country and the lives and environ- ment of its people. The customs of a people change as their laws change, as their daily lives change, as their surroundings change. This has been the history of the human family from its earliest inception.

Since the early settlement of Provo valley, our customs, our habits, our daily lives, have changed, but only as our laws, our associations, our envi- ronments have changed.

For example, who would today think of asking the county court to grant him the exclusive right to herd cat- tle, or sheep, or horses, in the county? Who, today, would think of asking that august body for the sole and exclusive right to the use of all the timber in a certain canyon?

Yet, we find the county court grant- ing to Wm. Wall the exclusive right to herd cattle and horses in Round Bay, but excluding sheep; and to Ephraim Hanks the exclusive right to

The laws of our state at that time were quite different in many respects to what they are today. The county courts, consisting of the probate judge and three selectmen, were real- ly constituted and considered the guardians of the people of their re- spective counties, and their powers and duties not being definitely defined by the legislature, they assumed almost unlimited power within their counties and the people looked upon them as the source and controlling head of everything of a secular nature not directly under the control and su- pervision of the ecclesiastical author- ities.

Probate courts had unlimited juris- diction in both civil and criminal cases. They were little hampered by the technicalities of law and court procedure or the arguments of at- torneys, as those necessary and to some undesirable creatures called attorneys at law, were almost un- known in the territory. Prior to 1876 the office of county prosecuting attor- ney was unknown in Utah. The state legislature assumed to deal with cer- tain special privileges, grants, and franchises, and the power to deal with certain others was delegated to or as- sumed by the county courts.

Some have been inclined to criticize the action of the probate and county courts during the first decade after the organization of this county, but when the crude condition of the coun- ty, the crude laws, and the crude mu- nicipal and judicial condition of the country is considered, there is very lit-

period the townsites of Heber, Mid- way and Wallsburg were entered by Judge Hatch, and titles given to the many claimants to city lots, and to his credit may it be said every title given by him was valid and stood the test of the courts, while many such titles similarly given by other probate judges of the territory were declared void and the work had to be done over.

Judge Hatch was a man of keen foresight, business tact, and execu- tive ability, and to him is due, in a great measure, the general condition of thrift, progress, and prosperity that is remarkably manifest among the people of this county.

He was succeeded June 1, 1874, by Thomas H. Giles, who served this county as probate judge until Sep- tember 5, 1881. Judge Giles was an honest, conscientious, fair-minded man, but lacking the business fore- sight and executive ability of his pre- decessor. But he was a man willing to listen to the counsel of those in whom he had confidence. His admin- istration of county affairs during the ten years he was probate judge in this county gave very general satisfaction, and few men could have served the public for that length of time, with less dissatisfaction, fewer enemies, or a cleaner record than did Judge Giles.

AGRICULTURE.

Other Industries.

The industries of this county have never been varied, consisting chiefly of farming and stock raising and some lumbering. Farming has been confined almost entirely to the raising of wheat, oats, and potatoes, on account of the seasons being too short to ma- ture other crops, even wheat and oats would often be frosted before it ma- tured, leaving the wheat shrunken and unfit to make first class flour, and the oats not a first class mer- chantable article. This was often the case during the first years of the coun- ty's existence, but the climate has gradually moderated, the growing season has become longer, the winter season has become less severe, until the climate of this valley has become almost an ideal one, agricultural crops of all kinds mature and are of the very best, and horticulture, some- thing unthought of here thirty or forty years ago, is fast becoming one of the chief industries of the valley. The quality of our horticultural pro- ducts—such as apples, pears, and prunes, will compare favorably with that of any part of the known world. During the past few years the sugar beet raising has been taken up by quite a number of the farmers of this valley with very satisfactory results.

While stock raising has been one of the chief industries of this valley from its earliest settlement—in fact at first it was the only industry that could be successfully carried on here—it is only during the past fifteen or twenty years that much attention has been paid the breeding and the pro- duction of the higher grades of cattle, horses and sheep. Today there are few places in the state of Utah that will excel Provo valley in this particu- lar line.

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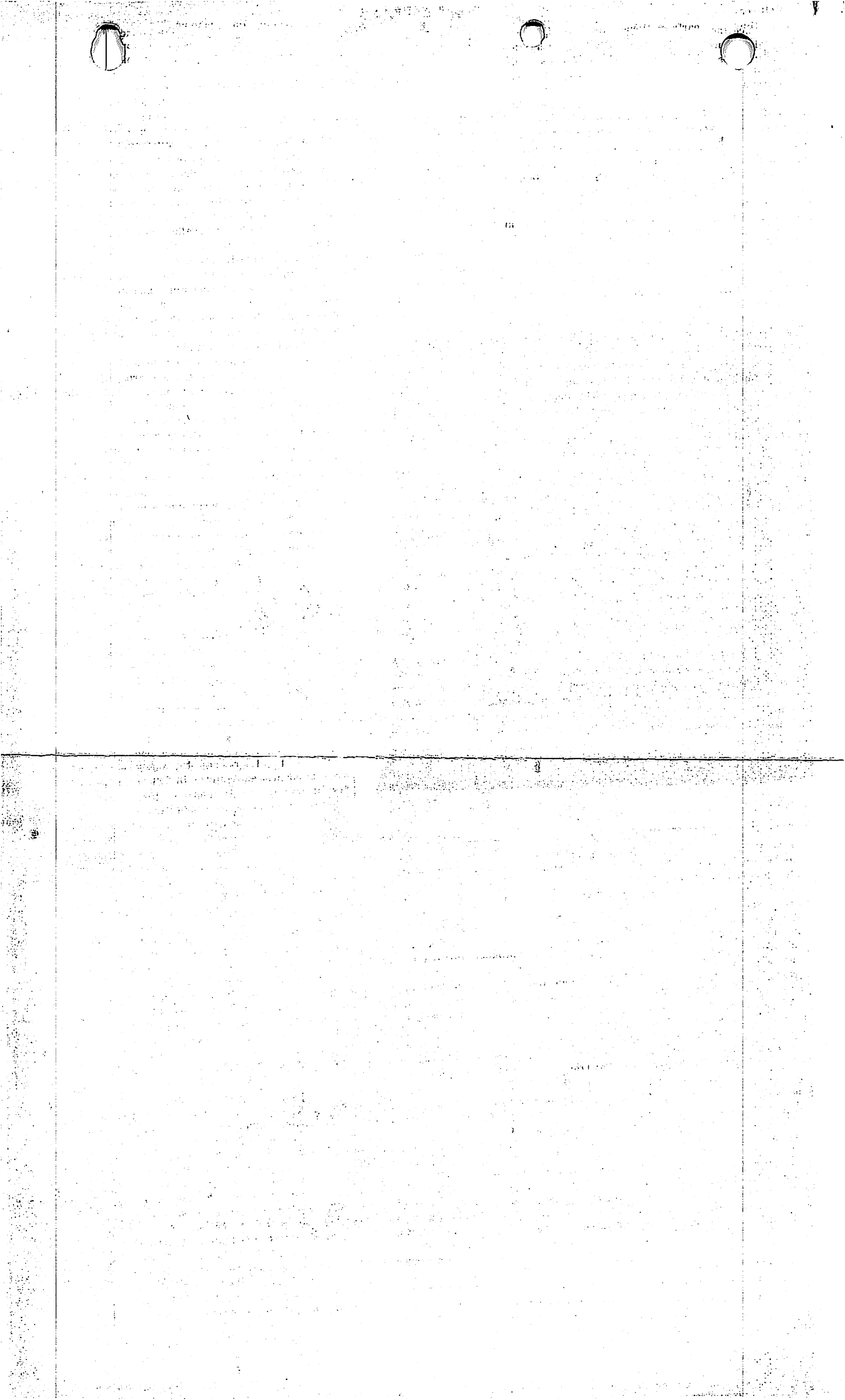
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Very little money was in circulation. People could not get money to pay taxes. The collector was obliged to receive wheat, oats, barley, potatoes, and other produce for taxes or not collect them. The county court was under the necessity of making these commodities legal tender for payment of taxes each year at a certain fixed price.

On December 4, 1865, the price of wheat and oats was established by the county court as follows:

For payment of taxes, wheat and oats, \$2.00 per bushel; for payment of fines and costs, wheat, \$1.50 and oats \$1.25 per bushel.

It is not quite clear to us why the legal tender quality of wheat and oats should be different for different classes of obligations, but no doubt there was a good and sufficient reason.

In 1868, Abram Hatch was appointed probate judge by the legislative assembly, and June 1st entered upon the duties of the office. He served in this capacity until June 1st, 1874. The six years of his administration of the county's affairs were the most important in some respects of any period of our county's history. During

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More and better cattle, horses, and sheep, especially the latter, are shipped from Wasatch county than any other section of the state. Quotations show that on the Kansas City market this year the Wasatch County sheep brought the highest prices ever obtained on the western market.

THE RESERVATION.

On May 5, 1864, an act was passed to vacate and sell the Indian lands in Utah territory, and to settle the Indians of said territory in the Uinta valley, section 2 of which provides: "That the superintendent of Indian affairs for the territory of Utah be, and he is hereby authorized and required to collect and settle all or so many of the Indians of said territory as may be found practicable in the Uinta valley, in said territory, which is hereby set apart for the permanent and exclusive occupation of such of the different tribes of Indians of said territory as may be induced to inhabit

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Reunion June 14, 1901.

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